

Brilliant Pessimists Commit Unpardonable Sin

Men With Brains, Who Should Know Better, Depress and Discourage Weak and Struggling Souls When They Say Life Is a Hopeless Battle, With Defeat Certain.

By ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

ONCE upon a time I read the following gloomy bit of pessimism from the pen of a man bright enough to know better than to add to the mental malady of the world. He said:

"Life is a hopeless battle in which we are foredoomed to defeat. And the prize for which we strive to have and to hold—what is it? A thing that is neither enjoyed while had nor missed when lost. So worthless it is, so unattainable, so inadequate to purpose, so false to hope and at its best so brief, that for consolation and compensation we set up fantastic faiths of an after-time in a better world from which no comforting whisper has ever reached us out of the ether. Heaven is a prophetic utterance by the lips of despair, but not an inference from history."

This is morbid and unwholesome talk which can only harm the speaker and the listener.

It can depress and discourage the weak and struggling souls who are striving to make the best of circumstances, and it can serve to guide the hand of some half-crazed being who needs only a word of encouragement and cheer to brace up and win the race.

Human Souls Hungering for Hope.
This is the unpardonable sin—to talk discouragingly to human souls hungering for hope.

When the man without brains does it, he can be pardoned for knowing no better.

When the man with brains does it, he should be ashamed to look his fellow-mortals in the eyes.

It is a sin ten times deeper than giving a stone to those who ask for bread. It is giving poison to those who plead for a cup of cold water. Fortunately, the remarks above quoted contain not one atom of truth!

The writer may speak for himself, but he has no right to speak for others. It is all very well for a man who is marked with smallpox to say his face has not one unscarred inch on the surface of it. But he has no premises to stand upon when he says there is not a face in the world which is free from smallpox scars.

Life is out "a hopeless battle in which we are doomed to defeat."

Life is a glorious privilege, and we can make anything we choose out of it if we begin early and are in deep

earnest and realize our own divine powers.

We can do and be whatever we will. The prize of life is not "a thing which is neither enjoyed while had nor missed when lost." It is enjoyed by millions of souls today—this great prize of life.

I for one declare that for every day of misery in my experience I have had a week of joy and happiness. For every hour of pain I have had a day of pleasure. For every moment of worry, an hour of content.

I cannot be the only soul so endowed with the appreciation of life. I know scores of happy people who enjoy the many delights of earth, and there are thousands whom I do not know.

"Of course," "Life is not missed when lost,"—because it is never lost. It is indestructible. Life ever was, and ever will be. It is a continuous performance. It is not "worthless" to the whole, normal mind. It is full of interest and rich with opportunities for usefulness.

When any man says his life is worthless, it is because he has eyes and sees not, and ears and hears not. It is his own fault, not the fault of God, fate or accident.

If every life seems at times "unattainable" and "inadequate," it is only due to the cry of the immortal soul longing for larger opportunities and fewer limitations.

Neither is life "false to hope." He who trusts the divine Source of Life shall find his hopes more than realized here upon earth. I voice only the knowledge of thousands of souls when I make this assertion. I know whereof I speak.

All that our dearest hopes desire will come to us if we believe in ourselves as rightful heirs to Divine Omnipotence, and work and think always on those lines.

"No whisper has ever reached us out of the void" confirming our faith in immortality, then one-third of the seemingly intelligent and sane beings of our acquaintance must be fools or liars; for we have the assertion of fully this number that such whispers have come to them from the biblical statistics of numerous messages from the other realm.

"As it was in the beginning, is now and ever more shall be, world without end. Amen."—Copyright, 1916, Star Company.

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The Gift of Conversation

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

YOU can no more be a good talker without giving thought to the matter than you can be a violin soloist without practice and effort. Conversation does not come by the grace of God, even though you have a splendid mental equipment.

Robert Louis Stevenson said that the "first duty of man is to speak; that is his chief business in the world, and talk which is the harmonious speech of two or more is by far the most accessible of all the arts of life."

How many of us miss the inexpressible delights of conversation! How few of us talk well enough to make it worth while to say anything! There are no hard and fast rules which will enable one to become a good conversationalist in a short course of lessons, but there are a few "signposts" to success.

Remember that there are always two in any conversation. What to talk about cannot be determined solely by your interest, but has to take into consideration the point of view of the other people. To be a good conversationalist you must first free yourself from the evil effects of self-centeredness. Focus your attention on the people with whom you are talking.

After that you must learn a little about human nature. You must be able to figure out the type of man who will be interested in discussion of art and literature as well as the sort of individual to whom that seems "high-brow" and extremely boring.

Must Be Informed.
Then you must have something to talk about. The newspapers and the weeklies will keep you posted as to the topics of the day. Some well-written editorials will direct you toward investigation along varied trains of thought. Follow it up. Suppose an editorial mentions Debussy or Maeterlinck, or Leonardo da Vinci and you don't know much about the individuals referred to. Why not go to an encyclopedia and find out?

Every new field of interest you open up to yourself guards you against unhappiness and boredom, and gives you the ability to contribute to a conversation.

Business, the fine arts, social problems, current events—what do you know about these? Dress, your own particular occupation, scandal, your special form of amusement—none of these equip you to be an interesting talker.

Get outside of yourself, widen your circle of interests, and study so that you may have material for conversation. And then in order to handle and turn it to use, read the standard novels and the good old English dramas so that you may be able to express yourself in charming, flexible English.

And then practice talking, not by trying to dominate a conversation, but by trying to find some way of interesting other people so that they respond and talk well, too.

Girl Workers Who Win Out

The Teacher and Her Final Success.

By JANE McLEAN.

MISS SMITH taught school. There was nothing remarkable about that fact, nor was there anything at all extraordinary about Miss Smith herself. She did not look upon her work in the light of a profession, nor of a career carefully chosen and painstakingly adhered to.

She was just one of 1600 other school teachers. She had never heard of special branches, or if she had, it never occurred to her to think whether or not she was suited to her work. She simply taught school because her education in the normal college made it possible.

From the time that she was a small girl her mother had always said with a gruff smile that they were making a teacher out of Maude.

"Her father and I never had the chance, but we want Maude to have a real education."

And so Maude had conscientiously

time to hand him over to Miss Smith. Miss Bascom, of the grade below, gave him up with a sigh of relief at the knowledge that a year of torment was happily over.

Johnny knew how to aim spit balls, and how to draw atrocious pictures of teachers in heavy chalk on the blackboard. But Miss Smith never struck his fingers with a ruler, nor did she keep him in after school. She just laughed at the awful pictures and pretended not to notice when Johnny aimed balls across the room. And when Johnny discovered that he was not making such a hit, he didn't find it as much fun as he had under foggy, fretful Miss Bascom.

Other teachers asked Miss Smith how she endured life with Johnny Deering, and Miss Smith always made some laughing rejoinder. Everyone marvelled, and life continued to go on for Miss Smith in quite the same way as usual, only she was really interested in Johnny Deering. She wanted to make him like her.

One day she encountered Johnny's eyes regarding her interestingly as she explained a point in nature study, and their absorbed interest made her think of a story that she promptly told to illustrate her point.

Happy Over Success.
She forgot herself and told the story well, the children hung on her words, and for the first time in her life she

was flushed and happy. The principal had come quietly into the room as she spoke, and coming up to her desk after school he said evenly:

"I think you have quite a knack with children, Miss Smith. I think I shall put you in charge of the children's special, you are certainly qualified."

Miss Smith's usually quiet hands tightened in her lap, but her cup of happiness was not quite empty. Johnny Deering still wrote up to her desk and held out a rough little hand impatiently.

"Sax, you're a peach," he said shyly. "I like you." And Miss Smith at last knew what it meant to have a real career.

ROSWELL HIGH SCHOOL HAS COMMENCEMENT FRIDAY
Roswell, N. M., May 12.—Commencement of the Roswell high school was held Friday evening at the armory.

The principal address was delivered by I. Fox and the diplomas were distributed by Sup't. W. O. Hall.

The dedication was said by Rev. J. T. McClure and the salutatory address was given by Agnes Moore, while the valedictory address was given by Elsie Brown.

The eighth grade commencement was held Thursday night at the Baptist church.



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Zemo, Cleveland, Advertisement.

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THE ESCAPADES OF MR. JACK - BY J. SWINNERTON

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